GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1383
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian agriculture can be made globally competitive by application of new technologies especially space technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed high yielding varieties for farming recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Technologies such as use of Geographic Information System, Remote Sensing, Global Position System, Simulation Modeling along with Information Technology have wide application across diverse fields such as crop forecasting, land use planning, flood and drought monitoring. Besides, other latest technologies such as biosensors, biotechnology, nano-technology etc. also have potential applications to make Indian agriculture competitive.

(c) & d): Yes, Sir. Using radiation induced mutation and hybridization, BARC has developed 29 improved varieties that are released and notified for commercial cultivation. These include: 16 in oilseeds (12 in groundnut, 2 in soybean, and 2 in mustard); 11 in pulses (4 in blackgram, 5 in greengram, and 2 in pigeonpea); and 1 each in rice and jute. The details are given in Annexure-I.